



Oh, that explains it



Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements

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COURSE/CREDIT CONTENT EXPECTATIONS

The Michigan Department of Education has developed and the State Board of Education has approved *High School Content Expectations (HSCE)* that outline what students should know and be able to do in English language arts, mathematics and science. Content Expectations for social studies are currently in the development process. These expectations serve as the foundation for the development of more specific Course/Credit Content Expectations that outline what students should know and be able to do for each credit required in the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

The Michigan Merit Curriculum Course/Credit Content Expectations and Guidelines will assist school districts and teachers to align their current curriculum, guide what is taught and assessed to earn credit, and provide parents with a tool to gauge student progress. These expectations also will serve as the basis to develop various questions included in the Michigan Merit Exam. In the future, the Michigan Department of Education will be developing a variety of companion documents to support the implementation of these credits.

SOCIAL STUDIES

What the Michigan Merit Curriculum Law Say

Sec. 1278a(ii) The board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil has successfully completed at least 3 credits in social science that are aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the Michigan Department of Education and approved by the Michigan State Board of Education, including completion of at least 1 credit in United States history and geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, ½ credit in economics, and ½ credit of civics.

Sec. 1278b(5)(h) The social science credit requirements may be modified as part of a personal curriculum only if the pupil has successfully completed 2 credits of the required social science credits including the civics course. The modification requires the pupil to complete 1 additional credit in English language arts, mathematics, or science or 1 additional credit in a language other than English.

Background Information

High School Content Expectations for Social Studies are being written at this time and should be approved by the State Board of Education in July 2007. The Social Studies HSCE will define what students should know and be able to do by the end of high school.

Social Studies Course/Credit Requirement documents will also be produced. They will define the expectations for earning the three required Social Studies credits as defined by law: U. S. History and Geography (1 credit), World History and Geography (1 credit), Economics (1/2 credit), and Civics (1/2 credit). As stated above, the new law requires both U.S. History and World History credits to contain a geography component.

Until the above content expectations are developed, a school district or PSA should align the content of social studies credits required under the Michigan Merit Curriculum with the current Michigan Curriculum Framework for Social Studies.

What Research Says

Studies show students taking more social studies coursework have higher ACT reading test scores, knowledge of basic concepts of democracy and government and the basic foundation necessary to be responsible citizens. In Michigan, 87 percent of districts currently require students to complete three or more credits of social studies.

Questions & Answers (This section will be completed upon completion of the Social Studies Content Expectations)

This document is intended to provide general guidance. Due to the complexity of the law, policies and guidance will continue to evolve. For specific information regarding the law, please refer to Public Acts 123 and 124 of 2006. 11/15/06